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Labour Force Statistics Highlights

A release from the Province of British Columbia's central statistical agency

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The unemployment rate increased 0.5 percentage points to 6.3%.

The participation rate decreased 0.6 percentage points to 62.4%.

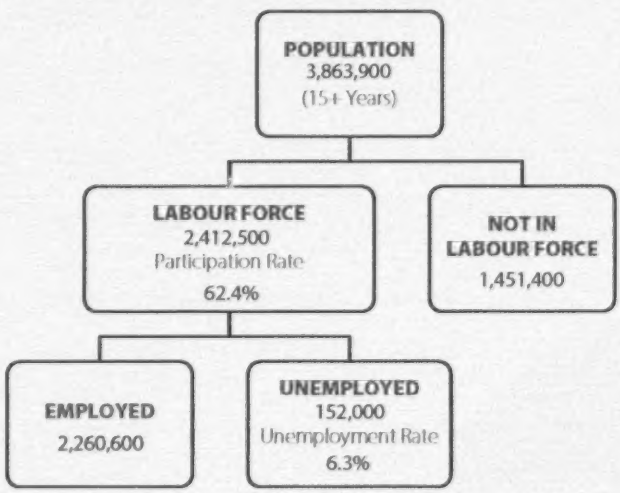
The employment rate decreased 0.8 percentage points to 58.5%.

B.C. HIGHLIGHTS

In April, employment in B.C. was down by 28,700 jobs, with 18,000 people exiting the labour force. As a result, the unemployment rate jumped by 0.5 percentage points to 6.3%.

The number of full-time jobs declined again in April (down by 17,500 compared to March), while part-time employment reversed the gains from last month (-11,300 jobs). Losses in full-time employment were mostly among adults aged 25 to 54 (-15,800), while the decline in part-time employment was concentrated amongst those aged 15 to 24 (-9,700). There was a slight increase in full-time employment for those aged 15 to 24 (+3,200) compared to March.

In April, public sector employment fell by 17,000 jobs, jobs in the private sector declined by 6,900, and the number of people who were self-employed dropped by 4,800. Compared to April 2014, public sector (-14,000, or -3.3%) and private sector (-3,900, or -0.3%) employment were both down, while the number of self-employed people (+500, or +0.1%) was virtually unchanged.



B.C. AND WEST

The unemployment rate in B.C. was the 4th lowest in Canada after Saskatchewan (4.3%), Manitoba (5.5%) and Alberta (5.5%).

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, employment decreased by 19,700 in April, driven by losses in part-time work. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.8%.

Note: All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated

GENDER

For men aged 25 years and over, the unemployment rate climbed by 0.7 percentage points to 6.0% in April. Employment fell by 18,000 jobs with both full-time (-11,100) and part-time (-6,800) decreasing.

There were also job losses for women 25 years and over in April as the unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 4.8%. Employment fell by 4,300 jobs with a loss in full-time jobs (-9,500) partly offset by a gain in part-time jobs (+5,300).

Compared to April 2014, there were notable declines in part-time employment for men and women aged 25 and over (-9.9% and -3.7%, respectively), while full-time employment remained relatively stable (+0.2% and +1.1%, respectively). The unemployment rate climbed 0.9 percentage points to 6.0% for men, and dropped by 0.2 percentage points to 4.8% for women compared a year ago.

YOUTHS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS

In April, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years rose by 0.8 percentage points to 11.6%. The participation rate fell (-0.7 percentage points) to 60.6% as did the employment rate (-1.1 percentage points) to 53.6%. Employment losses (-6,400) were due to a decline in part-time employment (-9,700) and a small improvement in full-time employment (+3,200). Compared to April 2014, the employment rate fell from 54.8% to 53.6% in April 2015 while the unemployment rate fell slightly from 11.8% last year to 11.6% this year.

CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS (CMAs)

Employment rose in Kelowna (+3,500 or +3.9%) and Abbotsford-Mission (+1,000 or +1.1%) during April. The majority of employment losses were in Vancouver (-19,800 or -1.5%), while there was a decline in Victoria (-2,700 or -1.5%). Employment in the rest of B.C. declined by 10,700 (-1.6%).

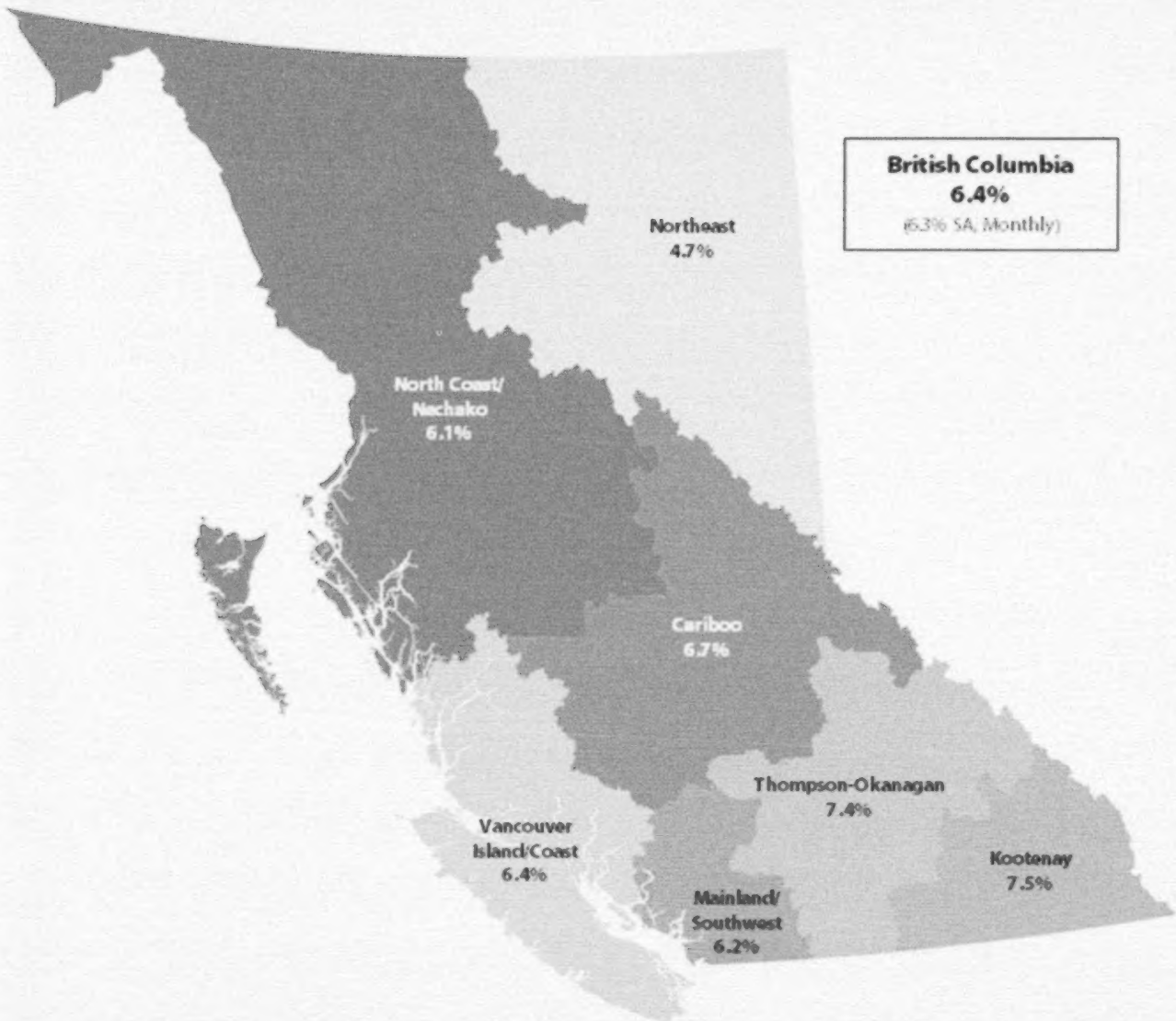
INDUSTRY

In April, employment declined in the goods-producing sector (-3,700 or -0.8%). The modest expansions in agriculture (+1,600) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (+200) were offset by the contraction in construction (-2,200), manufacturing (-1,600), and utilities (-1,500).

The employment losses in the service-producing sector (-25,100 or -1.4%) were greater than in the goods-producing sector. Health care and social assistance (+1,500) and transporation and warehousing (+1,200) rose slightly. Educational services (-8,400), professional, scientific and technical services (-6,400), and information, culture and recreation (-4,900) fell substantially, while there was also a decline in accommodation and food services (-3,300).

Click here to visit the Labour Force Statistics page on the BC Stats website

British Columbia Unemployment Rates
April 2015
Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey